Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center
for Delmarva History and Culture
Chesapeake Bay

Shoreline

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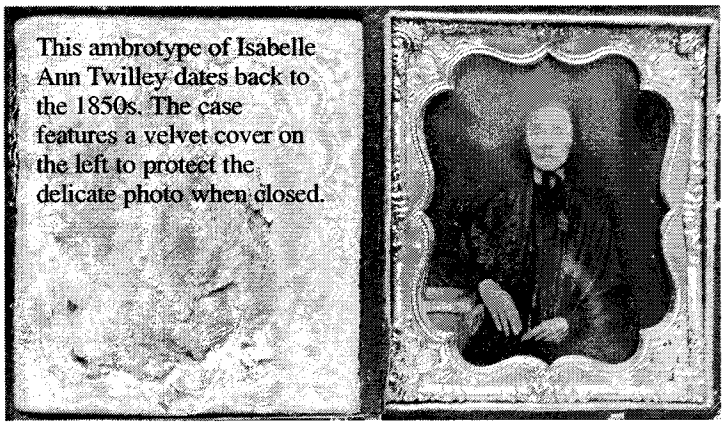
Nabb Center Acquires Ambrotype Photograph

This month's Spotlight on Collections focuses on a particular item received from Elizabeth Short Cissel of Baltimore. Last summer, Cissel donated many items regarding the Short side of her family. Included in this donation is a beautifully framed portrait. This photograph appears to be an ambrotype. Ambrotypes, popular in the 1850s, are collodion glass-plate negatives that appear as positives when viewed against a dark surface. Cissel has identified this image as Isabella Ann Twilley . Unlike most other types of photography, the ambrotype is on a glass support, making it extremely fragile. To combat destruction, ambrotypes are generally found in cases. Isabel's portrait is in a closeable case decorated with a golden metal, probably pinchbeck, and lined with velvet.



This ambrotype of Isabelle Ann Twilley dates back to the 1850s. The case features a velvet cover on the left to protect the delicate photo when closed.

Photographic images are always wonderful additions to the archives, but more so when the subjects are identified. Often we don't take the time to label our own photographs, thinking we will definitely know the subjects 10 or 20 years down the road. Although the process is tedious and time consuming, identifying all the people, places and events in today's photographs will be more helpful than we can imagine for future researchers. Fortunately, the identification of Isabella Ann Twilley was passed down with her portrait making it even more beneficial to Nabb Center patrons.

Nabb Research Center Welcomes New Board Member

Charles C. Emery, of North East, Md., is the newest board member of the Nabb Research Center. After being voted in during the April board meeting, Emery assumed his duties immediately. Emery is no stranger to volunteering at Salisbury University. He has served on the Salisbury University Foundation Board of Directors for one year and is active in helping to plan the future of the University. Emery said he became involved in the Center after he donated several family papers he found about his relatives. One of Emery's uncles, Edgar Bennett, was a former senator from Wicomico County and helped run the old Red Star Bus Company. An electrical engineer for 34 years, Emery now operates Cable Testing Service Inc. in Newark, Del. The business provides electrical equipment testing and consulting for industry. When not at work, Emery said he enjoys gardening, sailing his 26-foot sloop and restoring his family home in Mardela Springs. He lives with his wife Barbara and their two sons. Their daughter is married and has one daughter of her own. Emery's wife Barbara is a retired Christiana High School teacher who now works as a program coordinator at the Lerner School of Business at the University of Delaware.

Charles C. Emery

New Hours

The Nabb Center announces new hours beginning July 1.

Monday
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday
The Nabb Center will be closed.

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REMINDER. . .

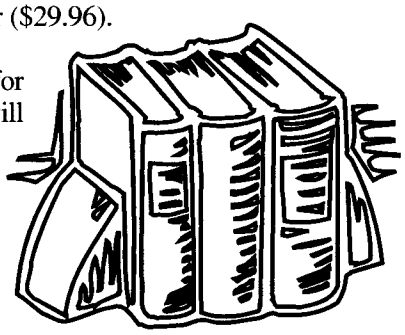
The Nabb Research Center will be closed July 4, 2003, in observance of Independence Day. We hope you have a safe and pleasant summer!

New Books Needed

The staff of the Nabb Research Center would welcome donations to acquire new books to aid researchers learning about Delmarva's history and culture. Recent budgetary strains have prompted the Center's staff to delay purchasing several important texts dealing with local history. The titles being sought by the Center include:

Worcester County Abstracts of the Worcester County Land Records by Leslie and Neil Keddie: 1760-1763, 1786-1789, 1793-1794, 1794-1795 and Liber H March 1769-Nov. 1770 ($18 each).
Four Volumes of Rent Rolls: 1743-1763 Vols. 1 & 2, 1763-1775, 1763-1777 and 1782-1790 ($18 each).
Accounts of Lord Baltimore's Revenue from 1731-1761 ($14).
Dorchester County Rent Rolls Abstracts by Leslie and Neil Keddie: 1677-1688, 1688-1707, 1707-1722 and 1723-1737 ($18 each).
A Southern Star for Maryland by Lawrence Denton ($17.06).
Maryland's Blue and Gray by Kevin Ruffner ($29.96).

The Center would welcome any donations for the purchase of these titles. Donors' names will be placed on a bookplate to commemorate their gift. For information call 410-543-6312.



Architecture at Arlington: Archeology and the Architecture of Arlington Mansion at Old Plantation Creek

Artifacts from a 17th century Virginia plantation will be part of an exhibit to be opened at the Nabb Research Center. The exhibit, "Architecture at Arlington: Archeology and the Architecture of Arlington Mansion at Old Plantation Creek," is open to the public and runs through December. The exhibit includes artifacts, photographs, documents and a model of the elaborate mansion built by John Custis II in the 1670s. Watch your mailbox for an invitation to the exhibit's opening in August. For information call 410-543-6312.